

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
7 April 2005 (07.04.2005)

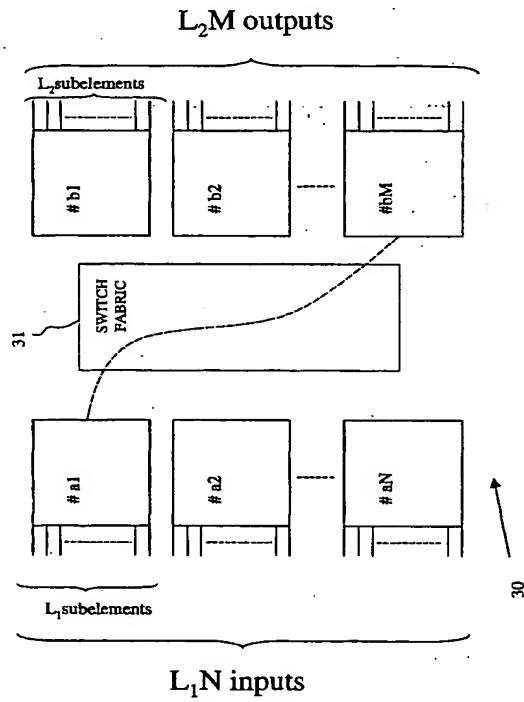
PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2005/032167 A1**

- (51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: H04Q 3/68, H04L 12/56
- (21) International Application Number: PCT/GB2004/004159
- (22) International Filing Date: 29 September 2004 (29.09.2004)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:  
0322765.9 29 September 2003 (29.09.2003) GB  
032889.1 12 December 2003 (12.12.2003) GB
- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): BRITISH TELECOMMUNICATIONS PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANY [GB/GB]; 81 Newgate Street, London Greater London EC1A 7AJ (GB).
- (72) Inventors; and  
(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): HILL, Alan, Michael [GB/GB]; The Old Police House, Park Road, Grunisburgh, Woodbridge Suffolk IP13 6TP (GB). RAFEL, Albert [ES/GB]; 19 Saddlers Place, Martlesham Heath, Ipswich Suffolk IP5 3SS (GB). HODGKINSON, Terence, Geoffrey [GB/GB]; 46 Melton Grange Road, Melton, Woodbridge Suffolk IP12 1SD (GB).
- (74) Agent: GEFFEN, Nigel, Paul; BT Group Legal Intellectual Property Department, PPCSA, BT Centre, 81 Newgate Street, London Greater London EC1A 7AJ (GB).
- (81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG,

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: MATCHING PROCESS



(57) Abstract: A matching method for a multi-stage switch arrangement having a plurality of logically associated inputs and a plurality of outputs, wherein the matching method comprises the steps of: for each logical association of inputs, aggregating service requests from every one of the inputs which form said logical association; resolving contention for said aggregated service requests between all of the logical associations to the outputs of the switch arrangement; and repeating the above steps in the matching method within each logical association for a subset of the inputs forming each said logical association until contention is resolved between the individual inputs of the switch arrangement and the outputs of the switch arrangement.

WO 2005/032167 A1



PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM,  
TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM,  
ZW.

- (84) Designated States (*unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available*): ARIPO (BW, GH,  
GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM,  
ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),  
European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI,  
FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI,  
SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ,  
GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

**Published:**

- *with international search report*
- *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*

*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*